

BOOK NOTICE

Biological Survey of the Mount Desert Region, Part VII, The Insect Fauna. By William Procter, D.Sc. The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia, 1946. 10 × 7 in. 566 p. 1 map, 10 illus.

This stately and well printed volume is a new check list of the insect fauna of Mount Desert Island. It supersedes Part VI of the Survey, that was noted in this Journal in 1939, vol. 47, page 56. In Part VI, issued in 1938, the list comprised, exclusive of the Arachnida, 297 families, 2,203 genera and 5,352 species and varieties. The present list, exclusive of the 200 Arachnida, covers 327 families, 2,547 genera and 6,367 species and varieties, or slightly more than 1,000 additional species. During the eight years between the two lists, additional collecting and study have increased the Lepidoptera from 1,374 to 1,479, the Diptera from 1,370 to 1,626, the Hymenoptera from 1,008 to 1,107 and the Coleoptera from 888 to 1,175. In the 16 remaining Orders of insects the number of species increased from 712 to 980.

In addition to the list, there is a description of the Island flora, and a numerical summary of the species, genera and families by Orders, a list of 421 field stations and an index. I agree with Doctor Procter that a faunal list should not be a mere catalogue and in the present list are found notes on host plants, habits, and methods of capture, all of which make it readable and informative. This list is certainly not a lifeless collection of names and symbols. Doctor Procter who is both a patron and student of entomology, has adequately fulfilled his purpose in this list, by adding to our knowledge of the insect fauna of Mount Desert Island, and by producing a record that is a pleasure to consult.—
H. B. WEISS.